BAT MAN
THE LINE OF
DC
SUPER-STARS
AN EXPLOSIVE NOVEL-
"THE FERRY BLOWS AT MIDNIGHT!"
30¢
NO. 275
MAY
30430
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BAT MAN
THE GAME'S OVER, BATMAN! YOU LOSE!

SHAZAM!

THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL FIGHTS THE...

MINERVA MENACE!

AUNT MINERVA, LEADING LADY OF THE UNDERWORLD, HATCHES A PLOT TO DOMINATE THE WORLD OF THE FUTURE!

IF THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD RESTS WITH THE CHILDREN, I'LL CONTROL THE CHILDREN!

GREAT IDEA, BUT HOW?

SHUT UP AND LISTEN!

I'LL USE MY MIND CONTROL MACHINE TO CONFUSE THEIR MINDS. WE'LL CAPTURE THE TV STATION AND BROADCAST "CONTROLLED THOUGHTS"! I'LL CONVINCE THEM THAT WHAT THEY LIKE THEY DON'T REALLY LIKE!

BRILLIANT THINKING, AUNT MINERVA!

AUNT MINERVA'S HENCHMEN CAPTURE BILLY BATSON.

MINERVA QUICKLY BEGINS OPERATION "BIG LIE."

YOU DON'T LIKE HOSTESS TWINKIES!

YOU DON'T LIKE HOSTESS TWINKIES!

I DON'T LIKE HOSTESS TWINKIES!

I DON'T LIKE HOSTESS TWINKIES!

WE'VE GOT TO DECONTROL THE CHILDREN'S MINDS. AND LET THEM SAY WHAT THEY REALLY MEAN!

SHAZAM!

AT THE SOUND OF THE MAGIC WORD MYSTIC LIGHTNING STRIKES AGAIN!

THINK FOR YOURSELVES AGAIN, KIDS!

WHAT AM I SAYING? I LOVE HOSTESS TWINKIES!

GOLDEN SPONGE CAKE WITH CREAMY FILLING INSIDE!! WHAT COULD BE MORE DELICIOUS THAN TWINKIES?

THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL HAS BEATEN ME AGAIN!

YOU SHOULDA BRAINWASHED THE KIDS ABOUT SOMETHING OTHER THAN TWINKIES.

STUDIO 8

YEAH, AUNT MINERVA, KIDS LIKE TWINKIES TOO MUCH TO BE FOOLED!

YOU GET A BIG DELIGHT IN EVERY BITE OF HOSTESS® TWINKIES®

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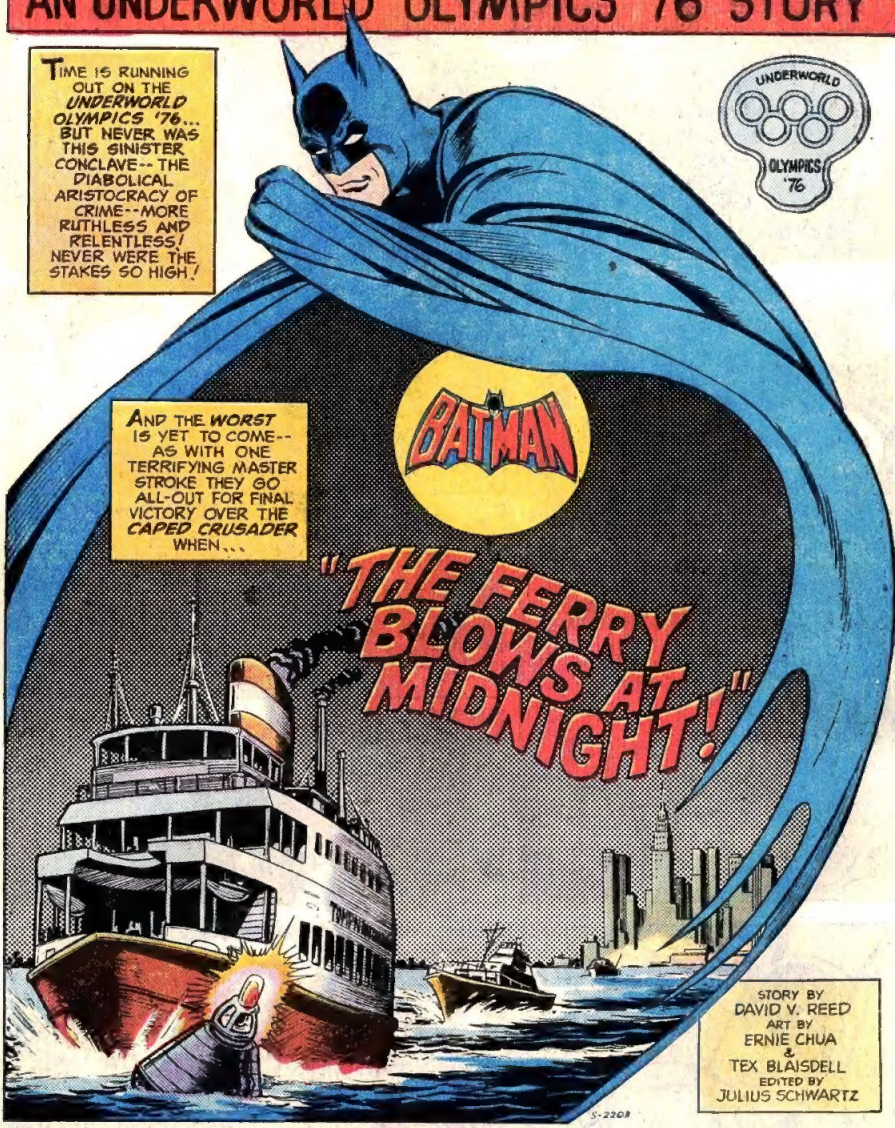
AN UNDERWORLD OLYMPICS '76 STORY


TIME IS RUNNING OUT ON THE UNDERWORLD OLYMPICS '76... BUT NEVER WAS THIS SINISTER CONCLAVE-- THE DIABOLICAL ARISTOCRACY OF CRIME--MORE RUTHLESS AND RELENTLESS! NEVER WERE THE STAKES SO HIGH!
UNDERWORLD OLYMPICS '76
AND THE WORST IS YET TO COME-- AS WITH ONE TERRIFYING MASTER STROKE THEY GO ALL-OUT FOR FINAL VICTORY OVER THE CAPED CRUSADER WHEN...
BATMAN
"THE FERRY BLOWS AT MIDNIGHT!"
S-2208

STORY BY
DAVID V. REED
ART BY
ERNIE CHUA
&
TEX BLAISDELL
EDITED BY
JULIUS SCHWARTZ

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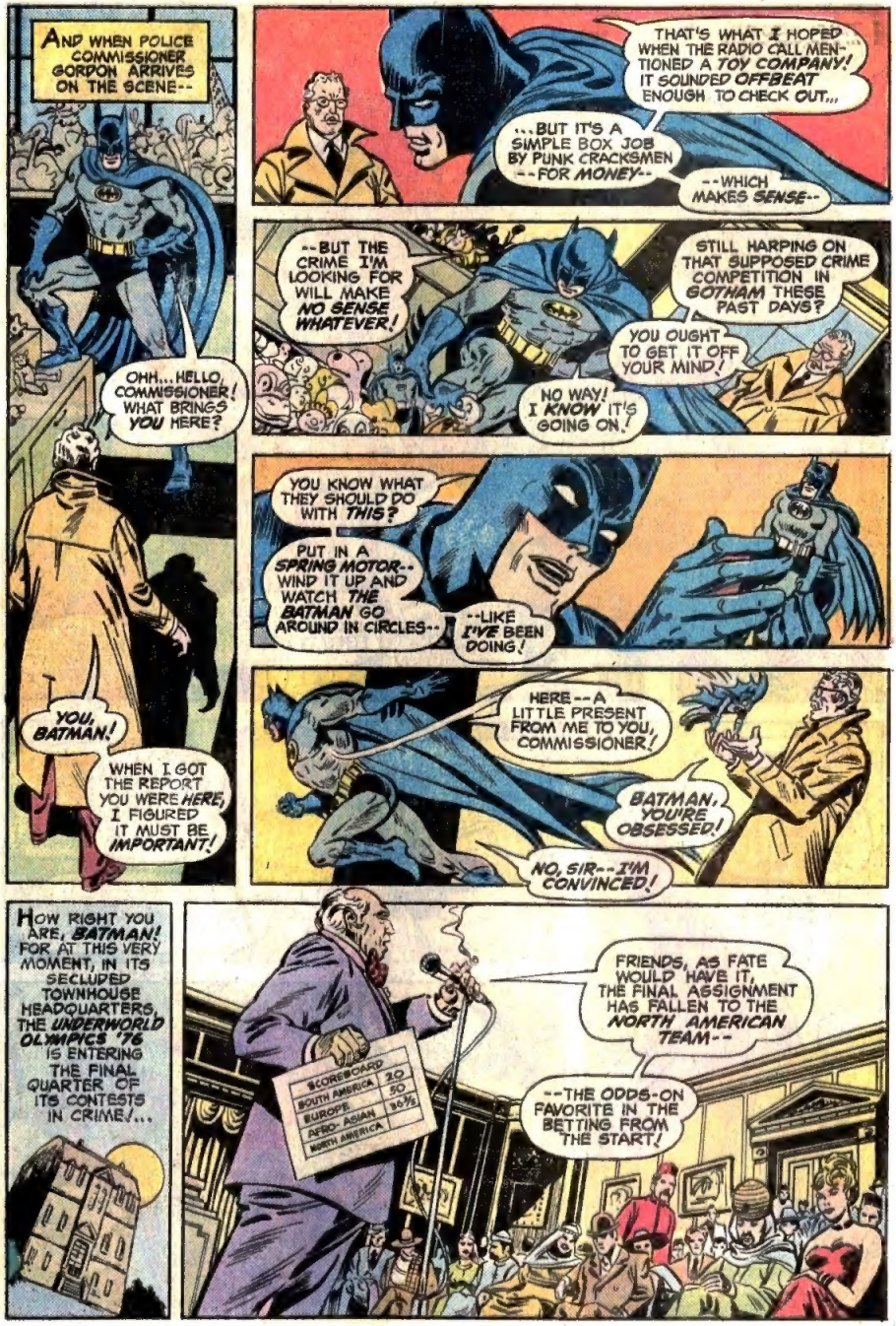
TIME: 11:30 P.M., PLACE: THE INNER OFFICE OF HAPPY TOYS, INC.--
WE'RE TAKIN' TOO LONG!
SHOULDA GONE FOR THE SOUP-AN'-PETE* INSTEAD O' THE TORCH!
YEAH...AN' I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELIN' WE TRIPPED AN ALARM SOMEWHERE!
LET'S PACK IT IN!
*UNDERWORLD SLANG FOR SAFECRACKER WHO USES NITRO EXPLOSIVES! --EDITOR
SUDDENLY--FROM OUT OF THE DARKNESS--
YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THE ALARM--
--BUT TOO LATE TO PACK IT IN!
;GASP!;
ANYONE AS CLUMSY--
--AS YOU TWO--
KRACK
--OUGHT TO GO STRAIGHT!
RHEEEEEEEE
WHAT'S MORE, YOU'VE BROUGHT THE POLICE HERE AND WAKENED THE WHOLE NEIGHBORHOOD!
SHORTLY, IN THE TOY COMPANY'S SHOWROOM--
GOOD JOB, BATMAN!
WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT IT, SERGEANT?


AND WHEN POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON ARRIVES ON THE SCENE--
OHH... HELLO, COMMISSIONER! WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
YOU, BATMAN!
WHEN I GOT THE REPORT YOU WERE HERE, I FIGURED IT MUST BE IMPORTANT!
THAT'S WHAT I HOPED WHEN THE RADIO CALL MENTIONED A TOY COMPANY! IT SOUNDED OFFBEAT ENOUGH TO CHECK OUT...
...BUT IT'S A SIMPLE BOX JOB BY PUNK CRACKSMEN --FOR MONEY--
--WHICH MAKES SENSE--
--BUT THE CRIME I'M LOOKING FOR WILL MAKE NO SENSE WHATEVER!
STILL HARPING ON THAT SUPPOSED CRIME COMPETITION IN GOTHAM THESE PAST DAYS?
YOU OUGHT TO GET IT OFF YOUR MIND!
NO WAY! I KNOW IT'S GOING ON!
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SHOULD DO WITH THIS?
PUT IN A SPRING MOTOR-- WIND IT UP AND WATCH THE BATMAN GO AROUND IN CIRCLES--
--LIKE I'VE BEEN DOING!
HERE--A LITTLE PRESENT FROM ME TO YOU, COMMISSIONER!
BATMAN, YOU'RE OBSESSED!
NO, SIR--I'M CONVINCED!
HOW RIGHT YOU ARE, BATMAN! FOR AT THIS VERY MOMENT, IN ITS SECLUDED TOWNHOUSE HEADQUARTERS, THE UNDERWORLD OLYMPICS '76 IS ENTERING THE FINAL QUARTER OF ITS CONTESTS IN CRIME!...
SCOREBOARD
SOUTH AMERICA 20
EUROPE 30
AFRO-ASIAN 30½
NORTH AMERICA
FRIENDS, AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT, THE FINAL ASSIGNMENT HAS FALLEN TO THE NORTH AMERICAN TEAM--
--THE ODDS-ON FAVORITE IN THE BETTING FROM THE START!

THEY ARE NOW IN CONFERENCE--AND OUR SPOTTERS ARE READY TO FOLLOW THEIR ACTION!
AS YOU KNOW, THE PASSAGE OF TIME AND ALTERED CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE PRESENTED THEM WITH UNFORESEEN AND TRULY MONUMENTAL DIFFICULTIES!
WE SHALL SOON KNOW HOW WELL THEIR CRIMINAL EXPERTISE--BOTH IN IMAGINATION AND EXECUTION--MEASURES UP TO THEIR PROBLEMS!
AND NOW, OUR CEREMONIAL TOAST TO THE NORTH AMERICANS --SUCCESS!
IN AN ADJOINING ROOM, THE NORTH AMERICAN TEAM CONFERS WITH ITS LIAISON MAN...
WE'VE BEEN GIVEN AN IMPOSSIBLE ASSIGNMENT!
IT'S SCHEDULED TO END ON THE MIDNIGHT FERRY TO TOMPKINSVILLE--
--ONLY THERE IS NO MIDNIGHT FERRY!
THE GOPHER'S RIGHT! THE GOTHAM CITY BUDGET-CUT OF LAST MONTH SHUT OFF FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN 10 P.M. AND 6 A.M.!
NO FERRY--NO ASSIGNMENT! THIS HAS TO BE CHANGED!
--WHEREUPON THE LIAISON MAN MAKES A RULING...
ALL ASSIGNMENTS WERE DRAWN UP WHEN THERE WAS 24-HOUR FERRY SERVICE! THERE CAN BE NO CHANGES!
EITHER SOLVE IT AS PART OF THE PROBLEM--OR BE DECLARED IN FORFEIT!
FORFEIT? THAT'S A LAUGH!
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN'T HANDLE --INCLUDING THIS--AND I KNOW HOW!
THE FIRST PART DEPENDS ON JOEY-ONE-EYE!
YOU'RE OUR LEADER, DUKE--NAME IT!
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

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and others	and others	and others

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B

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Dept. 335, 35075 Automation Dr., Mt. Clemens, Mich. 48043

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

Mail Orders to All Items in This Page From

10 P.M. THE FOLLOWING NIGHT...AT THE BUSTLING WESTSIDE WHOLESALE FLOWER MARKET--
Rit FLOWERS & DECORATIONS
"The Terrarium"
Rit's FLOWERS & DECORATIONS
WELL HIDDEN BEHIND THIS SCREEN OF CONSTANT ACTIVITY--ITS COURIERS UNNOTICED--A CENTRAL BANK FOR THE MOBSTER-RUN NUMBERS GAME...
THE DOOR-LIGHT'S BLINKIN'! SEE WHO'S THERE...
IT'S JOEY-ONE-EYE!
HIYA, JOEY! WHERE YOU BEEN KEEPIN' YOURSELF?
COMIN' BACK TO WORK, MAYBE?
NEXT MOMENT--
YEAH, MAX--ONLY NOW I'M WORKIN' FOR A DIFFERENT OUTFIT!
STAY COOL--OR YOU'LL WIND UP UNDER THEM FLOWERS OUTSIDE!
YOU DIRTY, DOUBLE-CROSSIN' GRIFTER! TURNED STEER-GUY, HUH?
I HATE DOING THIS TO YOU, MAX--BUT IT'S FOR A WORTHY CAUSE!
A MILLION THANKS, MAX!
NOW YOU CAN SAY YOU GAVE AT THE OFFICE!
AFTER 'EM! GET THAT SUITCASE!
SLAM

ON NIGHTLY PATROL, THE BATMAN'S VIGIL IS NO LONGER A ROUTINE ROAMING OF THE CITY... BUT A DOGGED, STEADFAST STALKING OF AN UNKNOWN QUARRY...
HIS ATTENTION RIVETED TO POLICE SHORTWAVE, HE MONITORS EVERY CALL! THUS, AT 10:21 P.M.--
SHOOTOUT AT FLOWER MARKET... RUNNING GUN BATTLE...BLACK SEDAN PURSUED BY FLOWER DELIVERY VAN...
SHOOTOUT AT THE FLOWER MARKET?
WEIRD!-- WEIRD ENOUGH FOR ME!
HEADING NORTH ON RIVER DRIVE... LAST LOCATION WEST TWO-EIGHT STREET...
THERE'S A BREAK-- JUST HALF-A-MILE AWAY!
MAYBE IT'S A GOOD OMEN-- FINALLY!
SWIFTLY, THE MASKED MANHUNTER CLOSES IN ON THE MURDEROUS HIGHWAY DUEL...
I'D LIKE TO GET 'EM BOTH-- BUT THAT HAIL OF LEAD IN ALL THIS TRAFFIC HAS TO BE STOPPED FAST!
--AND THE FASTEST WAY IS AT THE NEXT LEFT!
BAM
BAM
RATATAT
CRAAASHH
FLOWERS DECORATOR

AND WHEN THE POLICE CONVERGE ON THE SITE, IT'S JUST IN TIME FOR THE FLYING FINALE!...
BUT THE PAYOFF IS ONCE AGAIN A BUST...
JUST ANOTHER HEIST...JUST BANDITS CLIPPING BANDITS!
ANOTHER FALSE ALARM...
THE NEXT TWO DAYS ARE QUIET AND RELATIVELY UNEVENTFUL FOR THE GREAT METROPOLIS! IN FACT, THE BIGGEST NEWS AROUND--FOR ONCE--IS SOMETHING TO MAKE EVERY GOTHAMITE PROUD!...
THE MAYOR HOLDS A TV PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE IT--
I AM EXTREMELY GRATIFIED TO ANNOUNCE THAT AN ANONYMOUS GROUP OF CIVIC-MINDED BUSINESSMEN HAS DONATED ONE MILLION DOLLARS TO OUR CITY--
--FOR THE EXPRESS PURPOSE OF RESTORING ALL-NIGHT SERVICE TO THE TOMPKINSVILLE FERRY!
NOWHERE IS THE SPEECH MORE WARMLY RECEIVED THAN AT THE HQ OF UO '76--
...THIS WILL BE DONE IMMEDIATELY, STARTING TONIGHT!
CIVIC-MINDED!--HEAR THAT?
IT'S THE NORTH AMERICAN TEAM THAT'S CIVIC-MINDED--FORKING OVER A MIL TO GET THAT NIGHT FERRY RUNNING AGAIN!

STILL ANOTHER NIGHT PASSES WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT FOR THE GOTHAM--BUT NOT-- AS THE NEXT MORNING'S NEWSPAPERS TESTIFY --FOR BRUCE WAYNE...
FINAL
THE GOTHAM TIMES
ROBBERY AT CITY HALL!
THIEVES STEAL HISTORICAL KEY TO THE CITY
I BLEW IT! THAT'S THEIR HANDIWORK AGAIN!
YOU MEAN THE COMPETITION, MASTER BRUCE?
IT'S THEIR STYLE, ALFRED--THEIR M.O.! A KEY THAT CAN'T BE SOLD, WITH ONLY HISTORICAL VALUE!
FRANKLY, SIR, YOU'RE BEGINNING TO THINK EVERYTHING IS THEIR WORK! A BIT OF RELAXATION MIGHT WELL BE IN ORDER...
...AND FORTUNATELY, TONIGHT YOUR SCHEDULE REQUIRES YOUR PRESENCE AT THE WAYNE FOUNDATION BENEFIT SOCCER GAME!
AND SO, THAT EVENING, AMONG THE NOTABLES AT GOTHAM STADIUM--
DO YOU KNOW, SIR--THIS FIELD IS 60 FEET LONGER--
ALFRED, I INVITED YOU HERE BECAUSE IT'S YOUR NATIONAL GAME...BUT PLEASE DON'T INSTRUCT ME!
I PLAYED SOCCER IN COLLEGE...
--65 FEET WIDER THAN THE AMERICAN FOOTBALL FIELD, AND...
I CAME TO RELAX... AND HE'S DRIVING ME NUTS! AH, THERE'S MY CHANCE--
ALFRED, I SEE TWO YOUNG LADIES I KNOW...
BUT AS BRUCE WAYNE STARTS TOWARD HIS OBJECTIVE, A ROAR RESOUNDS THROUGH THE STADIUM--
LOOK! TWO GUYS COMING OUT OF THE GROUND!
NO! THAT'S THE SUNKEN BOX WHERE THEY FOLD UP THE FOOTBALL GOALPOSTS!
CONTINUED ON PAGE FOLLOWING

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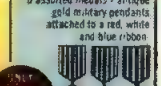

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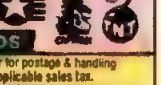

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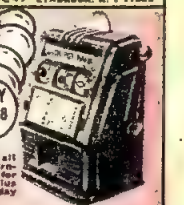

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--AND ARE DISAPPEARING BACK INTO THE GROUND!
IT'S THEM--NO DOUBT ABOUT IT! ONE OF THEIR TRADEMARKED CAPERS!
IT'S BEEN LOCKED FROM THE INSIDE!
WE'LL HAVE TO SMASH IT OPEN!
BY THEN, BRUCE WAYNE HAS VANISHED--AND HIS ALTER EGO--THE BATMAN--TAKES OVER!...
NOBODY'D WAIT DOWN THERE TO BE CAPTURED--WHICH MEANS AN ESCAPE TUNNEL--
--IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE DISTANCE--STRAIGHT UNDER THE BLEACHERS--
--INTO THE PARKING LOT--
THERE THEY ARE--COMING OUT OF A PHONE COMPANY CABLE INSTALLATION!
MUST HAVE A GETAWAY CAR HERE--AND THEY'RE HEADING FOR IT!

KRACK
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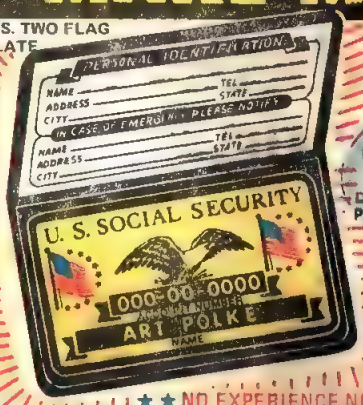

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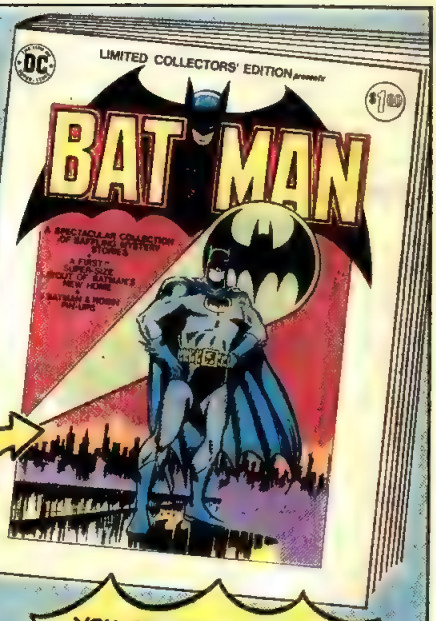
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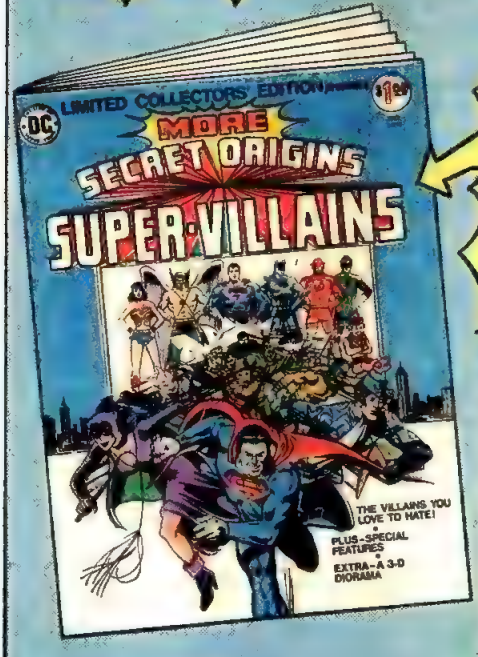

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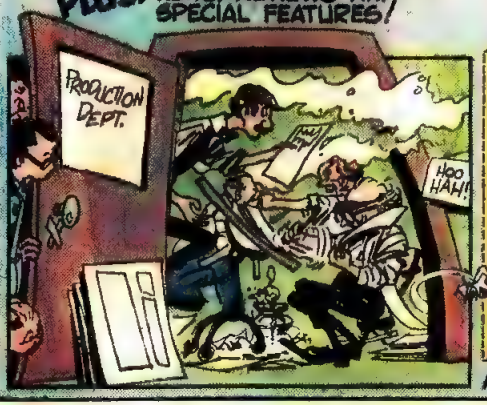

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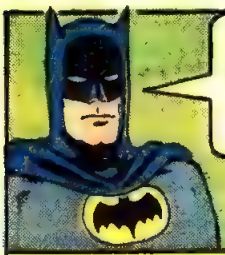

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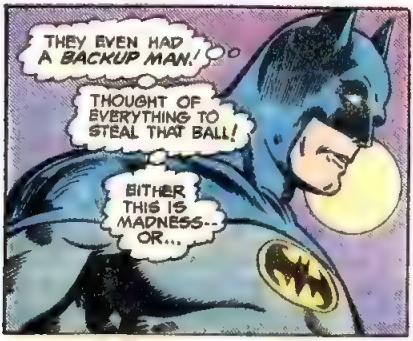
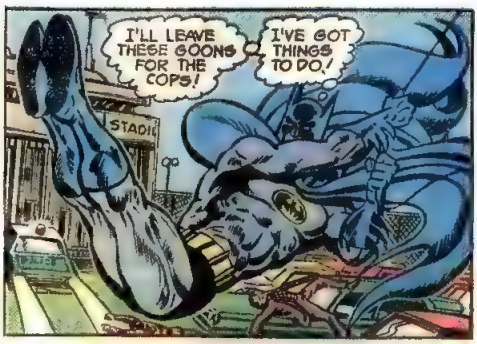

THEY EVEN HAD A BACKUP MAN!
THOUGHT OF EVERYTHING TO STEAL THAT BALL!
BITHER THIS IS MADNESS--OR...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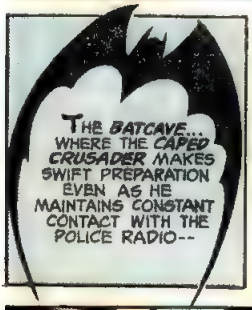
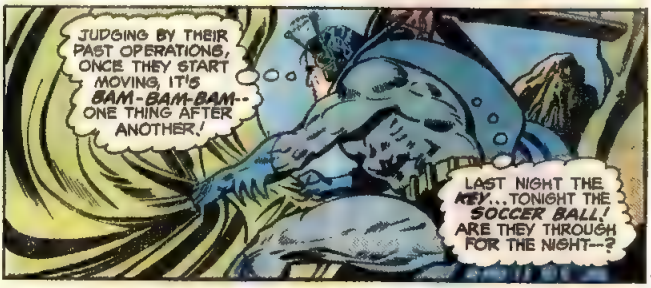
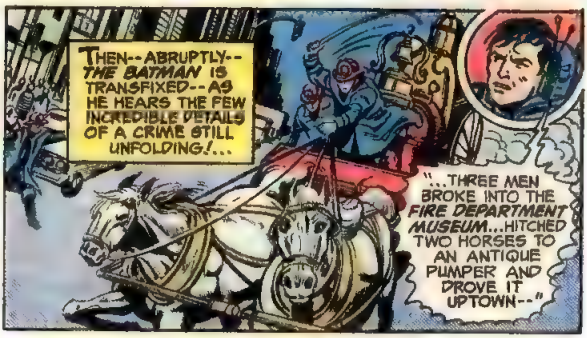
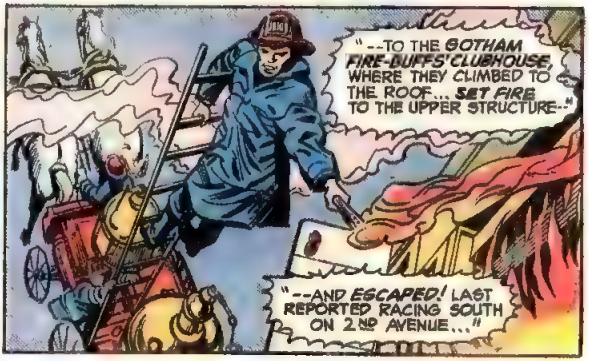
I'VE GOT THINGS TO DO!

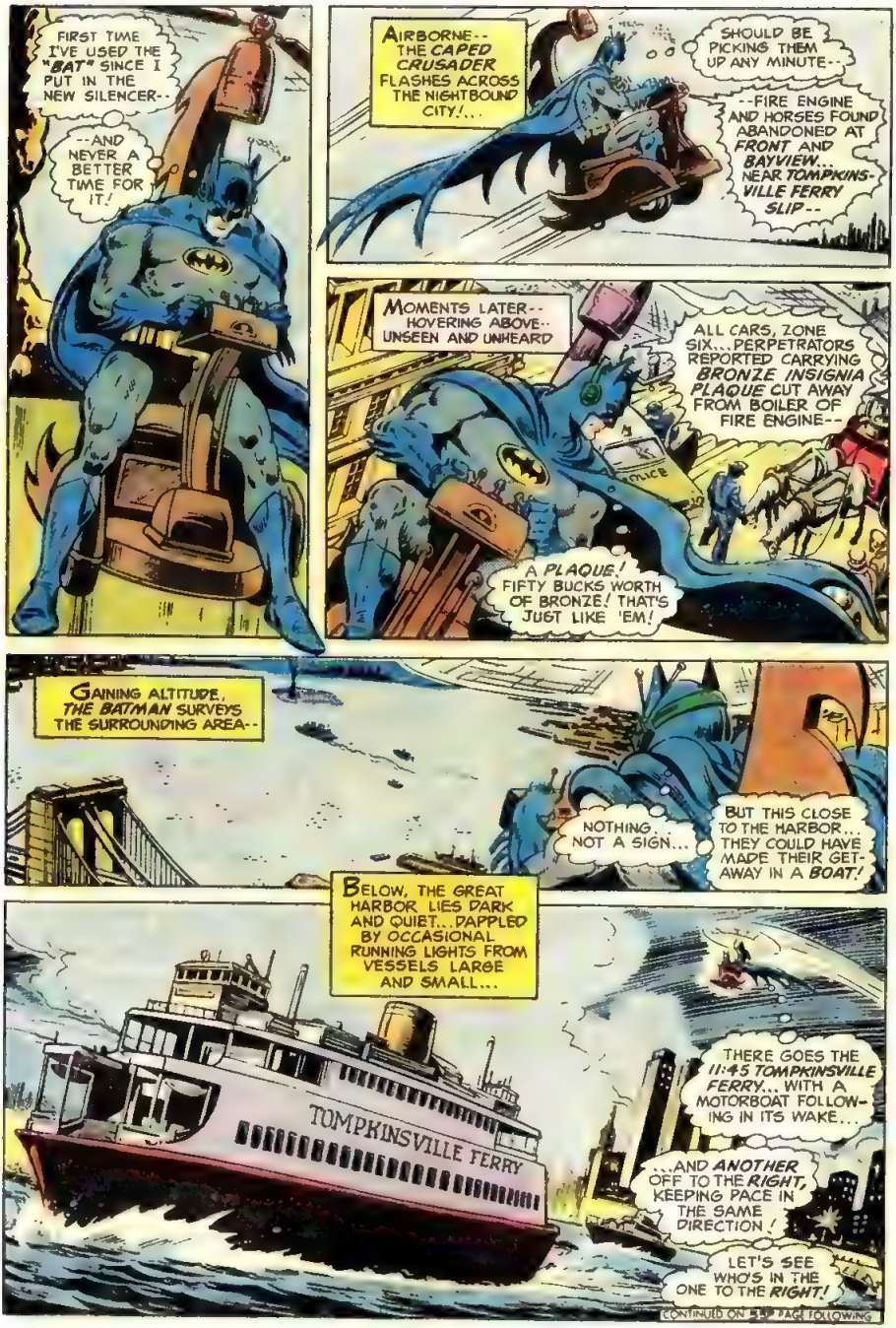

THE BATCAVE... WHERE THE CAPED CRUSADER MAKES SWIFT PREPARATION EVEN AS HE MAINTAINS CONSTANT CONTACT WITH THE POLICE RADIO--


JUDGING BY THEIR PAST OPERATIONS, ONCE THEY START MOVING, IT'S BAM-BAM-BAM--ONE THING AFTER ANOTHER!
LAST NIGHT THE KEY...TONIGHT THE SOCCER BALL! ARE THEY THROUGH FOR THE NIGHT--?

HALF THE TIME I CAN'T COVER GROUND FAST ENOUGH THROUGH THE TRAFFIC IN THE BATMOBILE--
--BUT THE WHIRLYBAT SHOULD TAKE CARE OF THAT!


THEN--ABRUPTLY--THE BATMAN IS TRANSFIXED--AS HE HEARS THE FEW INCREDIBLE DETAILS OF A CRIME STILL UNFOLDING!...
"...THREE MEN BROKE INTO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT MUSEUM...HITCHED TWO HORSES TO AN ANTIQUE PUMPER AND DROVE IT UPTOWN--"


"--TO THE GOTHAM FIRE-BUFFS' CLUBHOUSE, WHERE THEY CLIMBED TO THE ROOF... SET FIRE TO THE UPPER STRUCTURE--"
"--AND ESCAPED! LAST REPORTED RACING SOUTH ON 2ND AVENUE..."


FIRST TIME I'VE USED THE "BAT" SINCE I PUT IN THE NEW SILENCER--
--AND NEVER A BETTER TIME FOR IT!
AIRBORNE--THE CAPED CRUSADER FLASHES ACROSS THE NIGHTBOUND CITY!...
SHOULD BE PICKING THEM UP ANY MINUTE--
--FIRE ENGINE AND HORSES FOUND ABANDONED AT FRONT AND BAYVIEW... NEAR TOMPKINSVILLE FERRY SLIP--
MOMENTS LATER--HOVERING ABOVE--UNSEEN AND UNHEARD
ALL CARS, ZONE SIX...PERPETRATORS REPORTED CARRYING BRONZE INSIGNIA PLAQUE CUT AWAY FROM BOILER OF FIRE ENGINE--
POLICE
A PLAQUE! FIFTY BUCKS WORTH OF BRONZE! THAT'S JUST LIKE 'EM!
GAINING ALTITUDE, THE BATMAN SURVEYS THE SURROUNDING AREA--
NOTHING, NOT A SIGN...
BUT THIS CLOSE TO THE HARBOR... THEY COULD HAVE MADE THEIR GET-AWAY IN A BOAT!
BELOW, THE GREAT HARBOR LIES DARK AND QUIET...DAPPLED BY OCCASIONAL RUNNING LIGHTS FROM VESSELS LARGE AND SMALL...
TOMPKINSVILLE FERRY
THERE GOES THE 11:45 TOMPKINSVILLE FERRY... WITH A MOTORBOAT FOLLOWING IN ITS WAKE...
...AND ANOTHER OFF TO THE RIGHT, KEEPING PACE IN THE SAME DIRECTION!
LET'S SEE WHO'S IN THE ONE TO THE RIGHT!
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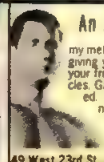

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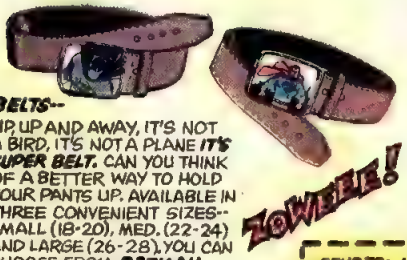

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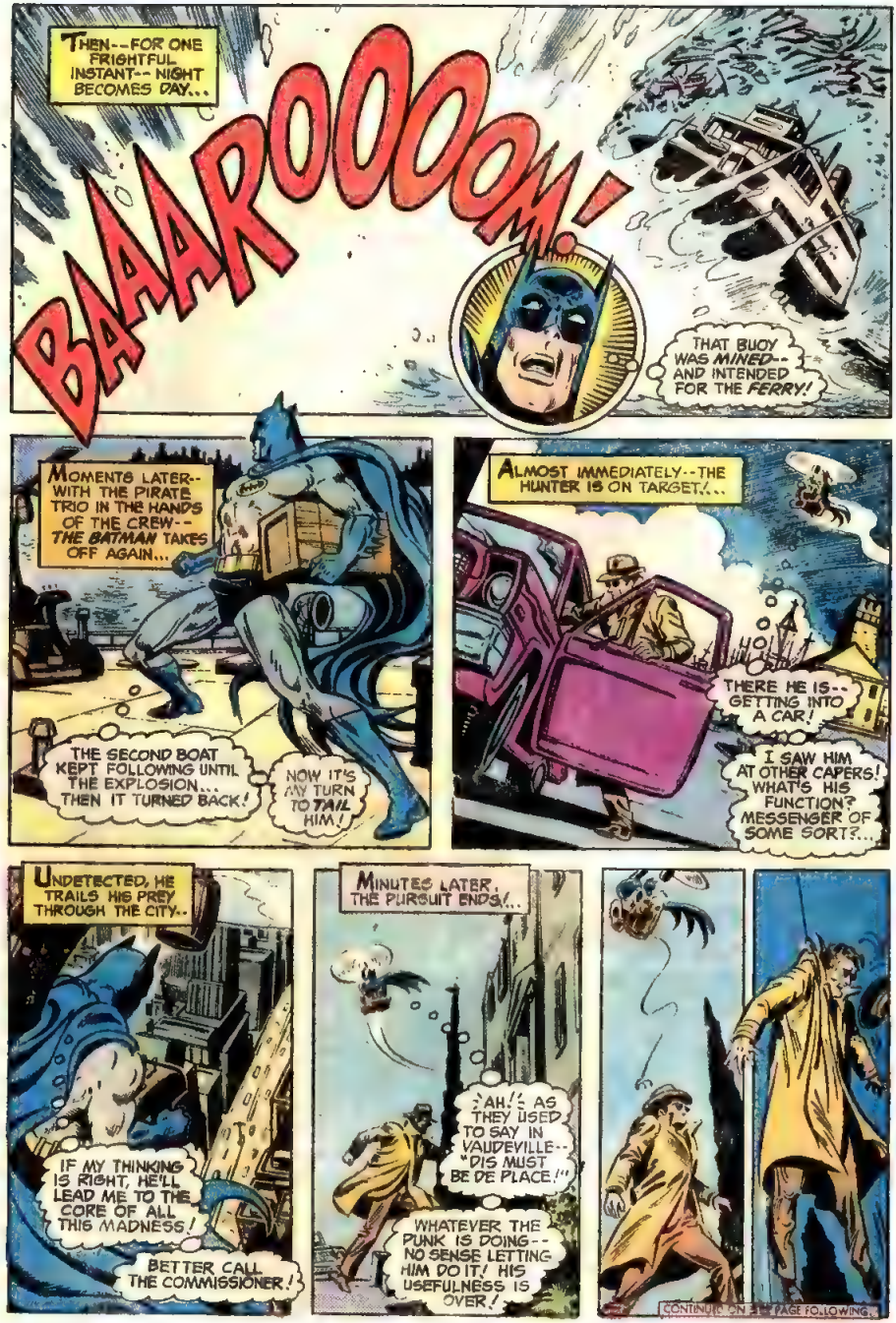
I'VE SEEN THAT BOATMAN'S FACE BEFORE--MORE THAN ONCE!
I'LL GET BACK TO HIM... SOON AS I FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!
TURNING HIS ATTENTION TO THE LARGER BOAT, AND ANOTHER SURPRISE AWAITS THE BATMAN!
ANOTHER FACE I KNOW--
--THE HOT BIKE-DRIVER WHO MADE OFF WITH THE SOCCER BALL!
SILENT AS THE WINDLESS NIGHT--DOWN COMES THE COWLED CRIME-FIGHTER--
THIS'LL KEEP THE WHIRLYBAT SECURED TO THE BOAT--WHILE I DROP IN ON MY FRIEND BELOW!
I HAPPENED TO BE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD--
SO I JUST--
--HAD TO--
--SAY--
--HELLO!
AND AFTER BAT-CUFFING HIS VICTIM...
TO MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T GO ASTRAY, I'LL TIE HIS BOAT TO THE FERRY!

ALOFT AGAIN--THE BATMAN SWOOPS TOWARD THE FERRY--
NOW TO SEE WHY HE'S FOLLOWING--
SOMETHING'S WRONG! THE FERRY'S VEERING FROM ITS REGULAR LANE!
THOSE CHANNEL LIGHTS AHEAD SHOULD BE TO STARBOARD--INSTEAD OF PORT!
BETTER CHECK OUT THE WHEELHOUSE!
EVEN THE VETERAN CRUSADER IS STARTLED BY THE SCENE THAT GREETS HIM--
THEY'RE HIJACKING THE FERRY--AND AIMING IT!
MAKE SURE THAT WHEEL IS LASHED SO IT STAYS ON THIS COURSE!
HURRY! WE'VE ONLY GOT TWO MINUTES TO GET OFF THIS TUB!
FELLAS--YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT IN TIME!
THE BATMAN!

BLAM!
WELL, WELL--JOEY FROM THE NUMBERS GAME!
YOUR NUMBER'S UP, JOEY--AND THE GAME'S OVER!
KRACK
TWO MINUTES, THEY SAID!
--WHICH LEAVES ONE MINUTE TO GO!
WE'RE BEARING DOWN STRAIGHT AT THAT SPAR BUOY AHEAD--
--BUT ONLY TILL I GET THIS WHEEL FREE!
CHAK
AN ETERNITY--TWENTY SECONDS LATER--THE FERRY TURNS HARD APORT--
--AND THE BOAT BEING TOWED BEHIND IT SWINGS OUT IN AN IRRESISTIBLE ARC...


THEN--FOR ONE FRIGHTFUL INSTANT--NIGHT BECOMES DAY...
BAAAROOOM!
THAT BUOY WAS MINED--AND INTENDED FOR THE FERRY!
MOMENTS LATER--WITH THE PIRATE TRIO IN THE HANDS OF THE CREW--THE BATMAN TAKES OFF AGAIN...
THE SECOND BOAT KEPT FOLLOWING UNTIL THE EXPLOSION... THEN IT TURNED BACK!
NOW IT'S MY TURN TO TAIL HIM!
ALMOST IMMEDIATELY--THE HUNTER IS ON TARGET!...
HO!
THERE HE IS--GETTING INTO A CAR!
I SAW HIM AT OTHER CAPERS! WHAT'S HIS FUNCTION? MESSENGER OF SOME SORT?...
UNDETECTED, HE TRAILS HIS PREY THROUGH THE CITY..
IF MY THINKING IS RIGHT, HE'LL LEAD ME TO THE CORE OF ALL THIS MADNESS!
BETTER CALL THE COMMISSIONER!
MINUTES LATER, THE PURSUIT ENDS!..
AH!..AS THEY USED TO SAY IN VAUDEVILLE--"DIS MUST BE DE PLACE!"
WHATEVER THE PUNK IS DOING--NO SENSE LETTING HIM DO IT! HIS USEFULNESS IS OVER!
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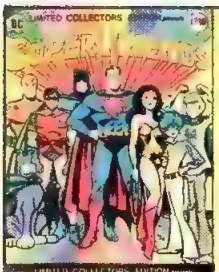

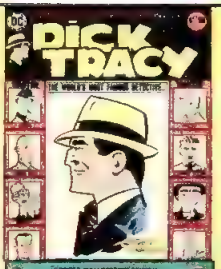

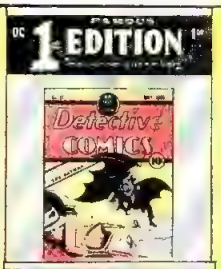

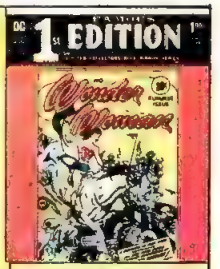

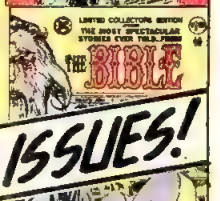

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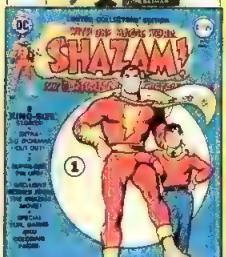

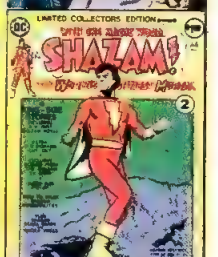

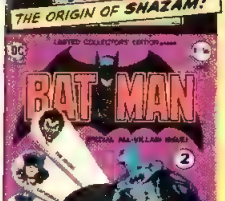

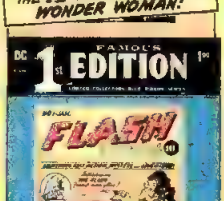

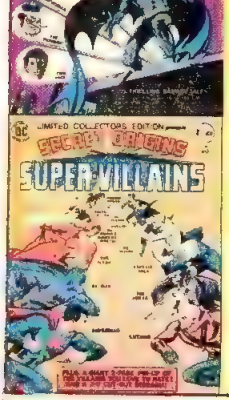

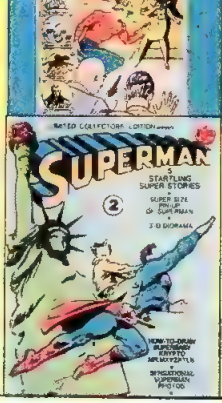

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INSIDE THEIR HEADQUARTERS --THE U O '76 ROCKS WITH TUMULTUOUS APPLAUSE AT THE CHAIRMAN'S NEWS....
A RADIO BULLETIN HAD JUST ANNOUNCED A TREMENDOUS EXPLOSION IN THE HARBOR--EXACTLY AT MIDNIGHT!
THOUGH OUR SPOTTER HASN'T RETURNED YET WITH HIS OFFICIAL EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT...
...WE CAN SAFELY ASSUME THE NORTH AMERICANS HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THEIR ASSIGNMENT--FOR A SCORE OF NINETY!
NOW TO DIAL POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON'S PRIVATE NUMBER AND MAKE IT OFFICIAL!
COMMISSIONER, GREETINGS FROM THE UNDERWORLD OLYMPICS OF 1976!
GOTHAM CITY HASN'T BEEN AS HOSPITABLE TO US AS WE'D HOPED, BUT TONIGHT WE PAID YOU OFF FOR EVERYTHING!
THAT FERRY SHOT WAS OUR WAY OF SAYING GOOD-BYE!
INDEED IT WAS!
TAKE A LOOK OUTSIDE!
THE "LOOK OUTSIDE"--
POLICE

AN HOUR LATER-- THE LOOK INSIDE POLICE HEADQUARTERS--
IT'S PANDEMONIUM, CAPTAIN!--EVERYBODY'S GRABBING!
SO FAR, SIXTEEN OF THEM HAVE BEEN CLAIMED BY INTERPOL AND THE F.B.I. ALONE!
AND LATER STILL... IN COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE--
...AND THIS WAS THEIR LAST ASSIGNMENT! THE KEY, SOCCER BALL, AND PLAQUE WERE PUT INTO THIS BOX AND TAKEN ABOARD THE FERRY--
--TO BE BLOWN UP WITH IT AT MIDNIGHT!
THE BOAT BEHIND THE FERRY WAS SUPPOSED TO PICK UP THE THREE HOODS WHEN THEY JUMPED OFF JUST BEFORE IT BLEW!
WE'VE GOT THEIR BOOKS, RECORDS, SCORES-- THE WORKS!
THE ONLY TIME THEY EVER ACTUALLY STOLE MONEY--IT WAS CROOKED MONEY--AND THEY GAVE IT TO THE CITY!
SURELY, YOU APPRECIATE THE DELICIOUS IRONY OF IT, BATMAN?
OF COURSE... BUT ONLY TO A CERTAIN EXTENT...
WHY? WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT?
ABOUT THE FIENDISH BRAIN WHO DREAMED AND PLANNED AND ARRANGED AND ORGANIZED THE UNDERWORLD OLYMPICS OF '76!
IT'S WORTH A LOT OF THOUGHT... ISN'T IT?
END
NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE SECOND WEEK IN MARCH

LETTERS TO THE BATMAN

S-2269

Dear Julie and Friends,

I was not surprised to learn that David V. Reed has done a lot of television scripting. He has a cinematic way of spinning a tale, so much so that I almost expect commercials instead of a letter column. "The Corpse Came C.O.D." in **BATMAN #271** extended his streak of literary triumphs—even though it was a change from his usual style, with less mystery and more action. No complaints, though, because my favorite aspect of **The Batman** is the concept of his character. Taking the photographs away, calling Carol Ames by her last name, showing contemptuous disgust with the thugs who attacked him ... somehow Dave manages to instill these bits into the **Batman** mythos without making them seem cliché. Bravo!

I have a history of disliking Irv Novick's artwork, but he really hit the mark in **#271**. His graphics complemented Dave's words to perfection, which is why the issue was so good!

KEVIN L. CALLAHAN, Brea, Cal.

(Our next correspondent echoes your sentiments about Irv's art, but has the opposite opinion of Dave's scripting!—BR)

Dear Editor: * * * * *

So the mystery of David V. Reed deepens! Along with the tantalizing clues offered to us in **BATMAN #271**'s letter column, we also got another slant on the mysterious Reed ... mainly, whoever he is, he can write a straight succession of the best **Batman** tales ever published and then come up with a total failure like "The Corpse Came C.O.D.!" It seemed as if Reed was trying to cram every **Batman** story ever written into 18 pages, with dead bodies in Bruce Wayne's apartment, nosy female reporters, secret cults and the most ridiculous gimmicks in years.

To make things worse, all these plot devices ran into each other. We are immediately presented with two mysteries: What was a dead man doing in the rug delivered to Wayne and why did the rug disintegrate? But before we can even get into the problems, Carol Ames pops in. **Batman** says, "Listen, Ames—who needs you?" and I echo his sentiments. If you want to use a **Lois Lane** type in **Batman**, use **Lois Lane**!

As for the maniac cult in the tale, I'm so sick of idols, priests and the whole scene that I could croak. And that bit about the dancers wearing gold discs that vibrate like cymbals that form deadly frequencies to burst the victim's heart—did Reed whip this out of a rejected **PLOP** script?

On a better note, however, I must compliment Irv Novick on one of his best art jobs ever. Irv must have been happy to get back to drawing **BATMAN**, his home ... and yet, after reading the script, I'll bet he thought he was in the wrong house!

BOB RODI, Columbia, Mo.

(Irv Novick fans can find him at home in THE FLASH or in the Ha-Hacienda in THE JOKER! But now back to the majority opinion on Dave Reed's script!—BR)

* * * * *

Dear Mr. Schwartz & Mr. Rozakis,

The three high points of "The Corpse Came C.O.D." were the girl, the weapon, and the art! Carol Ames was terrific, mostly because her character was so similar to that of **Lois Lane**. But if you plan to keep her around (and I hope you do), I hope it's as **Batman's** competitor and not as a girlfriend.

The high-powered vibration weapon was good, but more important, **The Batman's** ingenious defense against it saved his life and others and enhanced his "indestructible, unbeatable" image.

The art was fantastic. It showed the darknight detective as he should be—in the shadows and menacingly deadly to all evil-doers.

MICHAEL D. DARGAY, Royal Oak, Mich.

* * * * *

Dear Julie and Bob,

I've been playing with the names David V. Reed and Coram Nobis. Pseudonyms, you say? Hmmm. An anagram, perhaps? Let's see ... Dave Driver? Sam Robinco? Marco Bison? "Figure Out the Real Name" just might become the fan game of the year!

WILLIAM M. NEVILLE, Cut Off, La.

(We won't interfere with your fun, except to give you the hint that Dave's real name can be spelled with the letters in his pair of pen names—but you don't need ALL the letters to do it! One thing's for certain, it won't spell 'out'—Bob Rozakis.)

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION
(Act of August 12, 1970: Section 3685, Title 39, United States Code)

1. Title of Publication: BATMAN
2. Date of Filing: October 1, 1975
3. Frequency of Issue: Monthly
3A. Annual subscription price: $3.00
4. Location of Known Office of Publication: 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019
5. Location of the Headquarters or General Business Offices of the Publishers: 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019
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8. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and other Security Holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of Bonds, Mortgages or Other Securities: None.
9. For optional completion by publishers mailing at the regular rates: In accordance with the provisions of this statute, I hereby request permission to mail the publication named in item 1 at the reduced postage rates presently authorized by 39 U.S.C. 3626. Bernard Kashdan, Business Manager.
10. For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates: Not applicable.
11. Extent and Nature of Circulation:

	11A. Total number copies printed (Net Press Run):	Average number copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 359,000.	Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 462,803.
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	11E. Total distribution (Sum of C and D):	Average number copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 185,000.	Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 188,342.
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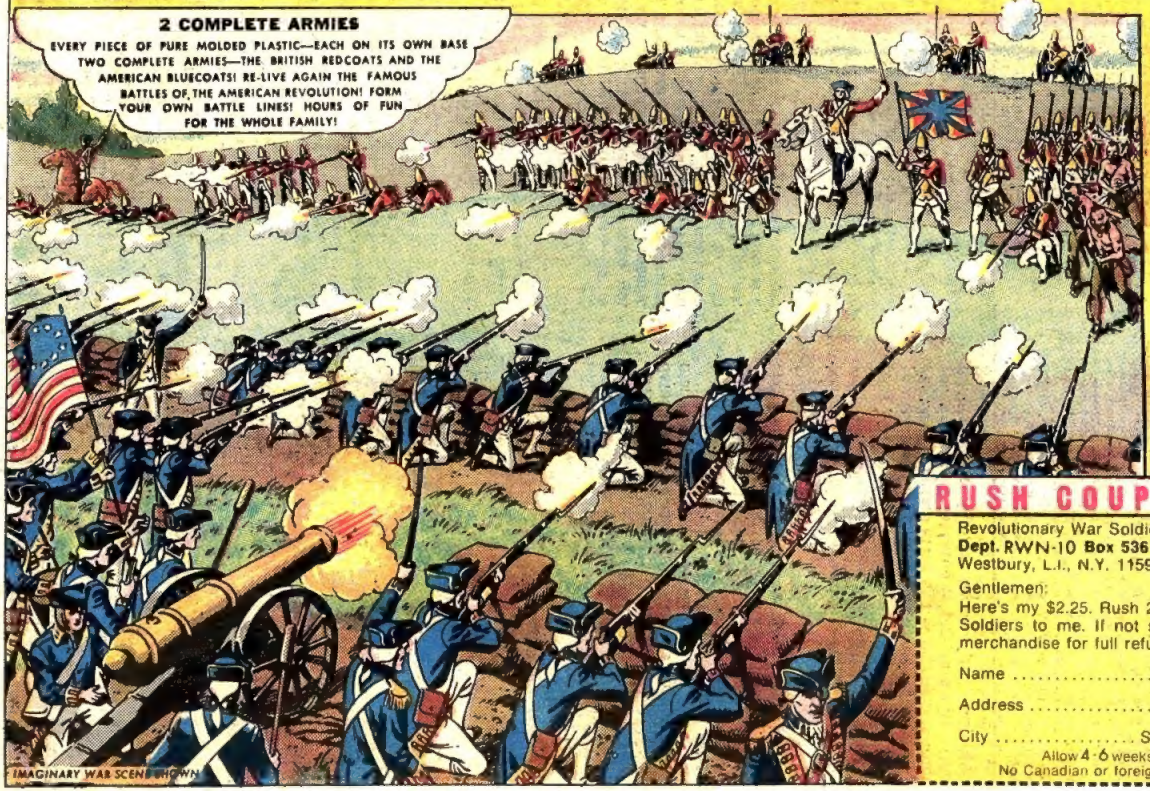

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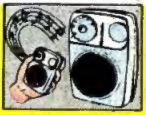

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